

Message Text

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P 082242Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, GB

SUBJECT: GRAND POUBARA DAM -- KAISER ENGINEERS

REF: A) LI0REVILLE 612; B) STATE 70389; C) LIBREVILLE

--- 530; D) LIBREVILLE 403, 3/20/75

1. KAISER ENGINEERS (KE) PLANS SEND GUY DE SPEVILLE, VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPANY'S LONDON OFFICE, TO GABON AND TWO OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES LAST TWO WEEKS APRIL. KE IN PROCESS REEXPLORING GRAND POUBARA ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION POSSIBILITIES DE SPEVILLE HAD INVESTIGATED DURING VISIT TO LIBREVILLE MARCH 1975 (REF D).

2. DE SPEVILLE SHOULD MEET WITH MBOUY-BOUTZIT, WHOM HE AD TRIED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO SEE DURING MARCH 1975 VISIT, AND DIVUNGI DI NDINGE, WHOM ANOTHER KAISER OFFICIAL IS BELIEVED TO HAVE TALKED WITH AT MEXICO CITY (REF B). IT MAY ALSO BE WORTHWHILE FOR DE SPEVILLE TO MEET RAWIRI AND NTOUTOUME, THE LATTER IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT RAPID RISE IN GOG POWER STRUCTURE (REF. C), AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS

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EMBASSY MAY SUGGEST. FYI: KE ADVISES THAT, IF DE SPEVILLE

VISIT AND OTHER EFFORTS TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL OF GABON

FOR COMPANY INTERESTS YIELD POSITIVE INDICATIONS, KE MAY SUBSEQUENTLY SEND TOP-ECHELON OFFICER FROM CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT BONGO. (END FYI).

3. DE SPEVILLE WILL MAKE LIBREVILLE VISIT AT BEGINNING OR END OF TWO-WEEK WEST AFRICAN TRIP MENTIONED PARA ONE, ABOVE, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS (REF A).

4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT DISCUSS KE INTEREST WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL OR FIRM SEEKING AGENCY/REPRESENTATIVE RELATIONSHIPS SINCE KE, LIKE THE OTHER BLUE-CHIP U.S. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES CURRENTLY RECEIVING USG ASSISTANCE RE GRAND POUBARA AND SANTA CLARA PORT CONSTRUCTION, DOES NOT, REPEAT NOT, UTILIZE SUCH APPROACHES.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED INDICATE ASAP PREFERABLE TIMING FOR DE SPEVILLE VISIT, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION FOR MINIMUM AND OPTIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS HE SHOULD PLAN TO SPEND LIBREVILLE.
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